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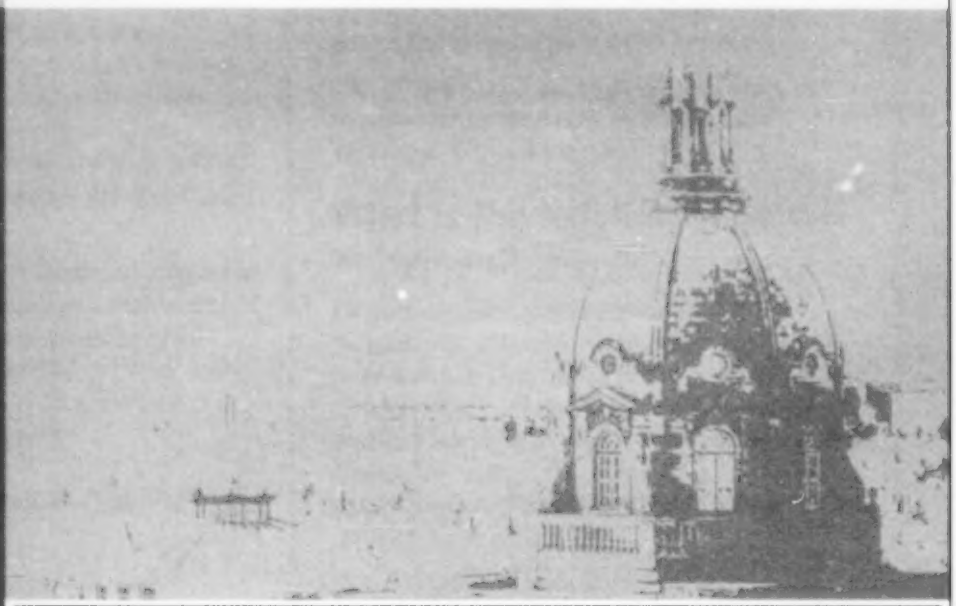

Village of Heisler
Dissolution Study

August 2008

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What is municipal dissolution?

Dissolution is a legal process under the province's *Municipal Government Act*. This process occurs when a municipality's status as an incorporated municipality is changed to become part of a bordering municipality.

The Village of Heisler is an incorporated municipality. This means that within its defined boundaries, the village council has the power to pass bylaws, the responsibility to provide services to residents, and the authority to collect property taxes and other revenues to support those services.

If Heisler were to dissolve, it would no longer be a municipality, but would become a hamlet in Flagstaff County. The county council would then be responsible for governing, serving, and taxing the residents of Heisler in addition to the population that it already serves.

What is a dissolution study?

A dissolution study is a report to assist Alberta's Minister of Municipal Affairs in deciding if a proposed dissolution should proceed.

The Village of Heisler dissolution study highlights what residents could expect to happen if their municipality were to dissolve. It looks at the municipal functions, services, financial situation, and community issues in the Village of Heisler.

The study compares how the village provides services and how the county would provide those services to Heisler residents if the village were to dissolve and become a hamlet in the county.

The areas that are examined in this report include the possible changes to service levels, council representation, administration, and municipal finances.

Alberta Municipal Affairs obtained the information for this dissolution study from the councils and administrations of the village and county, and from provincial records.

Why consider a dissolution study?

On November 6, 2007, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs received a sufficient petition from electors in the Village of Heisler.

The Minister initiated a dissolution study as required under section 130(2) (b) of the *Municipal Government Act*.

What is the existing situation in Heisler?

Heisler was incorporated as a village on August 14, 1920 with a population of 125. It later dissolved into a hamlet on April 14, 1938, to become part of the Municipal District of Melrose No. 426, of which lands are now part of Flagstaff County. On January 31, 1961, the hamlet was re-incorporated into a village with a population of 231.

The village is located approximately 170 kilometers southeast of Edmonton on secondary highway 855. Flagstaff County is the village's rural neighbour.

According to Ministry records, the village's population is 153 in 2008. This reflects a decrease in population of 20 per cent in the last 5 years, and a decrease of 27 per cent in the last 10 years.

Residents elect three councillors to govern the village. The village council appoints the mayor annually at its organizational meeting.

What is the financial situation in Heisler?

Note: *The following financial information is taken from the Village of Heisler audited municipal financial statements from 2003 to 2007, from Financial Information Returns (FIR)*

and from the Alberta Capital Finance Authority's records.

Operating Fund

The following table summarizes the village's actual operating revenues and expenditures from 2003 to 2007:

Year	Total Revenue	Total Expenditures	Net Revenue
2003	212,322	183,273	29,049
2004	213,770	192,625	21,145
2005	240,316	234,429	5,887
2006	268,451	216,982	51,469
2007	311,527	232,938	78,589

This table shows an annual trend that the village brings in sufficient operating revenues to cover operating expenditures. Annually, the village has contributed a portion of the operating surplus to the capital fund or reserve fund.

On December 31, 2007, the village's operating fund balance was $95,707.

Capital Reserves

Reserves help a municipality plan and pay for future projects or emergency repairs. If reserves are not sufficient, a municipality may have to fund capital projects or emergency repairs from other sources such as taxation or by borrowing.

On December 31, 2007, the village held capital reserves of $101,420.

Debt

The village has two loans from the Alberta Capital Finance Authority. The first loan was used to fund the construction of a new water supply system in 1985. The second loan was used to fund the installation of three insulated overhead doors for the village utilities building in 2004.

According to the Alberta Capital Finance Authority, the amount of village debt remaining on December 31, 2007 was $56,595.08.

The total annual loan payment due in 2008 is $23,622. Of this amount, approximately $22,000 is planned to be covered by utility fee revenue. The remaining amount is planned to be covered by general revenue. The existing debt is scheduled to be paid off in 2010.

Equalized Property Tax Assessment

Equalized assessment is a uniform way of comparing property wealth for all municipalities and is calculated by Alberta Municipal Affairs.

The village's equalized assessment for 2008 is $3,250,062. It has increased by eight per cent from 2004 to 2008. The assessment base is comprised of approximately 69 per cent residential and 31 per cent non-residential assessment.

Net Municipal Property Tax

The net municipal property tax levy is the amount of money required from the property assessment base to support the village's operations. It does not include requisitions for education or the seniors' foundation.

Between 2003 and 2007, the village's expenditures have remained fairly constant, which resulted in little change to the annual tax levy over the same period. In the five-year period, the smallest tax levy was $104, 698 in 2003, and the largest was $124,953 in 2007.

This shows the annual amount of money collected from property taxation has not changed significantly over the past five years.

Tables 1 and 2 show what owners of sample residential and non-residential properties in

Heisler will pay to the village, and could have expected to pay if Heisler had been a hamlet in Flagstaff County in 2007. It is important to

note that taxes may not be the only financial cost that would change should dissolution occur. Utility rates could change, and additional fees may be considered for services that the Village of Heisler now provides that Flagstaff County does not provide in other areas of the county. These factors would have an effect on the cost of living in Heisler.

What would remain the same if the village dissolves?

- 911 service
- Ambulance service
- Electrical power and gas utility providers and franchise agreements
- Family and community support services
- Garbage collection and recycling
- Options for payment of property taxes
- RCMP service
- Safety codes inspection services
- Snow removal from church parking lot

What would change if Heisler dissolves?

Potential changes include the following:

Assessment Services

The village currently uses a contractor to provide assessment services.

Upon dissolution, the county would become responsible to provide assessment services for Heisler properties. The county employs its own assessors, who would conduct the assessment in Heisler.

Assets and Liabilities

On December 31, 2007, the village had liquid financial assets of $515,135. These include cash, receivables, and land for resale.

Additional assets include such things as buildings and public works equipment.

On December 31, 2007, the village had financial liabilities of $372,485. These include such things as long-term debt, deferred revenue, and accounts payable by the village.

This means that if the village had dissolved in 2007, there would have been more assets than liabilities. If dissolution had occurred, the village could have paid for all of its liabilities and still have had assets left over.

Upon dissolution, the village's assets and liabilities would transfer to the county.

The county would be required to deposit cash and any proceeds from the sale of Heisler assets into a special reserve fund used only to reduce liability incurred by the Village of Heisler, or for projects in Heisler. The reserve fund remains established until the funds are depleted.

Bylaws

Currently, the village enforces three bylaws (Licensing and Control of Dogs, Unsightly Property, and Noise) through contracted services.

Upon dissolution, existing village bylaws would remain in force in Heisler until the county council either amends, repeals, or replaces them.

The county would review all village bylaws. If a village bylaw is similar to a county bylaw, the bylaw would be repealed and replaced by the county bylaw.

Upon dissolution, Flagstaff County peace officers would provide bylaw enforcement services.

Capital Projects

Currently, the village has a multi-year capital infrastructure plan.

Upon dissolution, the county would complete the projects identified in the plan if funding is in place. Projects proposed where sufficient funding is not in place could be completed by utilizing Heisler's reserve funds.

County infrastructure plans would be amended to include Heisler.

Council Representation and Meetings

The village council consists of three members elected at large by village residents. The village council appoints the mayor annually at its organizational meeting.

Council meets once per month at 7:00 p.m., with the meeting date set at the previous council meeting, to accommodate the work schedules of members of council.

Flagstaff County council consists of seven members elected from seven electoral divisions. The county council appoints the reeve annually at its organizational meeting.

Upon dissolution, Heisler residents would join the county's electoral division 5. The division 5 councillor, currently Charlotte Curtis, would represent Heisler residents as well as the residents from the rest of the division.

The county would need to consider adjusting electoral boundaries prior to the next municipal election to ensure an equal population distribution between county electoral divisions.

County council meetings are held the second and fourth Wednesday of each month commencing at 9:00 a.m. at the county office in Sedgewick.

Heisler residents would be represented by county councillors on boards and committees in the community. Heisler residents would be eligible for election to the county's council.

Disaster Services

Currently, the village has a Municipal Emergency Response Plan.

A volunteer is the village's disaster services director. The village is a member of the Flagstaff Regional Partnership, which supports the local disaster services director by providing training programs for and coordination among the member municipalities.

Upon dissolution, Heisler would be included in the county's Municipal Emergency Response Plan. The county's Regional Emergency Services Coordinator would become the disaster services director for the Heisler area.

Employees and Administration

The village currently employs one permanent employee on a part-time basis as the Public Works Operator. The village also hires a seasonal staff person to work in the public works department.

The village contracts administrative services from Flagstaff County.

Upon dissolution, the county would employ the public works operator for at least the transitional period to assist in winding down the village's affairs and ensure continuity of service to residents.

Fire Services

The village owns the village fire hall. The volunteer fire department provides fire protection in the village. The cost to operate the fire department is covered by village general revenues, and a contribution from the county.

The village has an agreement to provide fire and rescue services to part of Flagstaff County. The village owns two fire trucks. One is primarily used to service the village, and the other is used primarily to service the county. The village and county fund capital equipment on a 50/50 basis.

The Regional Emergency Services Coordinator acts as a regional fire chief and regional disaster services coordinator.

The Flagstaff Regional Partnership is currently reviewing levels of fire and rescue services across the county and in the 10 urban municipalities within the county's boundaries, including the Village of Heisler. The review is expected to be completed in the fall. If dissolution occurs, the recommendations from this review may impact the types of fire and rescue vehicles and equipment maintained in Heisler. The degree of impact will not be known until the review is complete.

At this time, the county does not have its own fire department.

General Inquiries and Emergencies

The village administration is the contact point for general inquiries, and water and sewer emergencies during regular business hours. The village office is open to the public on Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. On other weekdays, village residents can contact village administration by dialing the village phone number, and their call is forwarded to the county office in Sedgewick.

The phone numbers of the mayor and deputy mayor are posted on the village office door for after-hour emergencies. They in turn, contact the village public works operator to handle water and sewer emergencies.

Residents can get information at the village office during regular business hours, by contacting one of the members of council, the monthly newsletter, and the village website.

Following dissolution, the county would provide a package of information about the county to residents at the time of dissolution, including an organizational chart, after hours emergency and regular contact phone numbers, and how to contact the area councillor or attend a meeting of county council.

Grants

The village currently applies for a variety of grants based on village priorities.

Upon dissolution, Heisler would no longer be eligible to apply directly for municipal grants; however, the county's allocation would increase for most grants. The county would complete any initiated or funded projects in Heisler.

The county would use its future grant funds to address county priorities, including those in the hamlet of Heisler. Future projects and programs in Heisler, potentially funded by grants, would be considered along with the needs of the rest of the county.

Grass Cutting

The village cuts the grass on village-owned property, and if necessary, will cut grass on unsightly premises, and charge property owners for the service. The village also offers grass cutting to private individuals on a fee-for-service basis.

Upon dissolution, the county would continue to cut grass on municipal property, and if necessary, on unsightly premises, but would not offer service to private individuals.

Library

Currently, the Heisler Municipal Library Board operates the library. The village is a member of the Parkland Regional Library System, which provides services to the municipal library. The village provides a per capita contribution to the library and to the regional library system. In addition, the village provides an annual grant to the library to cover the costs of its insurance premiums. The library is located in the post office building, and rents the space from a private landlord.

In accordance with the *Alberta Libraries Act*, if dissolution occurs, the Heisler Library Board would dissolve prior to the village dissolution. Assets owned by the village would become the county's property and those owned by the Parkland Regional Library System would be returned to the system.

Upon dissolution, Flagstaff County would evaluate the possibility of maintaining a library in Heisler.

If possible, Flagstaff County would like to see the library continue to offer services. It would be county policy not to continue to provide an annual grant to cover the cost of the library's insurance premiums.

If the library closed, residents would be able to use other libraries in the area such as Forestburg Galahad, Killam, Hardisty, Lougheed, and Sedgewick.

Municipal Planning

Currently, the village has a land-use bylaw and contracts for municipal planning and development services. The village public works operator acts as the village development officer and village council acts as the village subdivision and development authority.

Upon dissolution, the village's land-use bylaw would remain in effect until the county's land-use bylaw is changed to include Heisler.

The county contracts for municipal planning from a different service provider than the village. Heisler residents would contact the county development officer in Sedgewick for planning related matters. County staff would act as the subdivision and development authority.

Municipal Taxes

The village establishes municipal tax rates that generate funds to pay for programs and services provided to residents and to cover the village's debt payment. In 2007, the village had the following minimum tax rates:

- If the 2007 property tax calculated at village rates for occupied residential properties was less than $550, then a minimum tax of $550 was applied;
- If the 2007 property tax calculated at village rates for occupied non-residential property
- was less than $650, then a minimum tax of $650 was applied;
- If the 2007 property tax calculated at village rates for vacant residential and
- non-residential properties was less than $300, then a minimum tax of $300 was applied;
- If a vacant property is adjoined to an occupied property, owned by the same owner, the $300 minimum tax for the vacant property was waived and the assessment of the improved property is used to calculate the tax levy for the properties; and
- If a property has a split assessment between residential and non-residential, the non-residential minimum property tax rate was applied.

The village's minimum tax provisions changed in 2008 so that every property is assessed and taxed separately, regardless of ownership. In 2008, the minimum tax rates are:

- If the 2008 property tax calculated at village rates for occupied residential properties was less than $550, then a minimum tax of $550 applies;
- If the 2008 property tax calculated at village rates for occupied non-residential property was less than $650, then a minimum tax of $650 applies; and
- If the 2008 property tax calculated at village rates for vacant residential and non-residential properties was less than $300, then a minimum tax of $300 applies.

Upon dissolution any taxes owed to the village would be owed to the county.

Currently, the county does not have a minimum tax rate, but would consider implementing a minimum tax rate following dissolution of the village. The county, however, would not continue with the policy to waive taxes on vacant properties adjoined to

occupied properties, owned by the same owner. This means that each property would be assessed and taxed separately.

The county's 2007 combined tax rate for residential properties is approximately 53 per cent less than the village's tax rate. For non-residential properties, the tax rate is approximately 46 per cent less.

For a breakdown of the 2007 tax comparisons, refer to Tables 1 and 2 on pages 10 and 11.

Municipal Tax Due Dates and Penalties for Unpaid Taxes

Village property taxes are due in the year they are levied, and are payable 59 days after the date of the tax notice.

A penalty of 12 per cent is levied on unpaid current taxes after 60 days from the date of the tax notice, and a further 12 per cent on January 2 of the following year.

Upon dissolution, Heisler property owners would receive a tax notice from the county in future years. Property taxes are due and payable by October 15 in the year they are levied and would be subject to the county's due dates and penalties. A penalty of 12 per cent is levied on unpaid taxes on October 16, and an additional 6 per cent is levied on all tax arrears on May 1 of the following year.

Recreation Facilities and Parks

The Heisler Community Hall is owned by the Village of Heisler, and is operated and maintained by the Community Hall Board.

The Heisler Recreation Centre is owned by the Village of Heisler, and is operated and maintained by the Heisler Agricultural Society.

Village parks and walking trails are owned and maintained by the village.

The village owns two covered bus shelters in the village for use by students during the winter months.

The village owns and operates the sports grounds, which include campgrounds, an RV dump, ball diamonds, concession booth, showers, washrooms, a tennis court, and a playground.

Upon dissolution, ownership of the community hall, the recreation centre, parks, trails, bus shelters and sports grounds, would transfer to the county.

The county would plan to enter into agreements with the current operators to continue to operate the community hall, and recreation centre.

The county would seek to have a community organization provide grass cutting and maintenance of Heisler parks and the sports grounds, and manage bookings for the sports grounds.

The county would remove snow from the walking trails and maintain the bus shelters.

County public works staff would continue to collect campground fees and maintain the RV dump.

Roads and Sidewalks

The village provides for the construction and maintenance of the road system.

There are approximately 5 kilometers of roads in the village, with Main Street being the only paved road. The rest of the roadways are either cold mix or gravel. The gravel surfaced roads receive an application of dust control agent as required. Dust control is paid for through the village's general revenue or available grant funding.

The village does not have a formal policy for snow removal priorities; however, the public works operator typically services Main Street first and removes snow from other roadways as required

The village has a snow removal bylaw that requires property owners to remove snow from the sidewalks fronting their property.

The village provides in-kind snow removal at the church if special requests are received.

Upon dissolution, the county would assume the care, control and management of the village roadways and sidewalks. The basic level of service in the county is a well-maintained gravel-surfaced roadway; therefore, Heisler should expect the same level of service from the county. The county has 3,125 kilometers of roadway to maintain and has yet to determine the frequency of regular maintenance, or the priority of snow removal that Heisler residents could expect.

Current policy is that dust control applications are cost shared in the county. Residents are required to pay for the cost of the dust control product and the county pays for the application. Heisler residents should expect to be subject to a similar policy.

The cost of any future paving or new sidewalks would be charged to residents in the form of a local improvement tax.

Streetlights

ATCO owns, operates and maintains the streetlights. The village pays the electricity costs from general revenues. In 2007, the cost was $10,841.

The county does not have any other hamlets within its boundaries and does not provide streetlights elsewhere in the county.

Upon dissolution, residents should expect to have the cost of streetlights added to utility bills.

Based on 2007 costs, this is estimated to be $11.50 per month.

Utilities

Utility Billing

Village utility bills are issued bi-monthly and can be paid by cash or cheque at the village office.

Customers, who pay their fees for the entire year prior to February 28, receive water and wastewater services free of charge for one month.

Upon dissolution, Heisler residents would pay their utility bills to the county. The county accepts payment at the county office in Sedgewick. The county would also make arrangements for payments to be made at a financial institution in Heisler.

The county would continue to offer one month of free water and wastewater service when the utility fees for the entire year are paid prior to February 28.

Utility Rates

The village utilities include water, sewer, and waste management.

In 2007, monthly service charges were as follows:

- Residential Water: $25.00 per month;
- Residential Wastewater: $25.00 per month;
- Non-Residential Water: $35.00 per month;
- Non-Residential Wastewater: $35.00 per month;
- Cozy Corner Residential Water: $12.50 per month;
- Cozy Corner Residential Wastewater: $10.00 per month;
- Residential Waste Collection and Disposal: $14.00 per month; and
- Non-Residential Waste Collection and Disposal: $18.25 per month.

In 2004, 2006, and 2007, the total revenue from utility fees generated enough money to cover the operational costs for the utility systems including the utility-related debenture payments; however, there has been an annual trend where a surplus from the sewer utility has covered a deficit from the water utility.

In 2005, the village had an unbudgeted expenditure of approximately $22,000 because of a water main break at the water treatment plant, which created a deficit that year.

Upon dissolution, the county would review utility rates and adjust the rates to reflect the county policy that utility rates pay for the full cost of providing the service. This means that utility rates could change.

Utility Systems

Currently, the village's waterworks and wastewater systems are registered with Alberta Environment and are operated in compliance with Alberta Environment requirements. The village's water source is ground water wells, and the wastewater system is a lagoon system with two storage cells.

The county does not operate any water and sewer utilities elsewhere in the county; therefore, upon dissolution, the county would either contract those services or would offer to employ the current operator to perform the work.

Flagstaff County would upgrade the underground utilities if required. Heisler residents would be responsible to pay the cost of future upgrading of the systems. This would be done by using one or a combination of the following sources of funding: grants, utility rates, a local improvement tax or the special reserve fund that would be set up for Heisler's assets.

Village Office

The village owns the office building, which is attached to the village fire hall. The office is open to the public from 9:00 a.m. to noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Wednesdays. On other weekdays, village administration can be contacted by phone at the county office in Sedgewick.

In addition to conducting its regular municipal business, the village provides free services to residents such as filling out forms and providing community meeting space, and on a fee-for-service basis photocopying and faxing.

Upon dissolution, the county office in Sedgwick would provide all administrative and operational functions to residents. The county office is open Monday to Friday from 8:00 a.m. to noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Upon dissolution, the village office would be surplus to the county's needs; however, the county would keep the municipal office open one day per week during a transition period.

The transition period would provide the county with time to wind up the village affairs, make alternative arrangements for such things as utility payments, and provide the residents with information to access the county administration.

Residents would receive notice when the office is to close and what the county plans to do with the building. Because the fire hall is attached to the office, the requirement for the entire building will not be known until the outcome of the regional fire services review. If it is determined that neither function of the building is required in the future, the building will be sold.

The county would make suitable arrangements for the residents to pay taxes and utility bills, such as paying through a local financial institution, before the village office is closed. Residents could also mail their tax and utility payments to the county administration office in Sedgewick.

Table 1

Heisler Residential Property Tax Comparison

2007 Municipal and School Taxes

Note: This table shows the changes that could be seen for three actual residential properties in Heisler if the village were to dissolve. Taxes may not be the only financial cost that would change. Utility rates could change, and additional fees may be considered for services that the Village of Heisler now provides that Flagstaff County does not provide in other areas of the county. These factors would have an effect on the cost of living in Heisler.

Village of Heisler		Flagstaff County	
Municipal	30.1690	Municipal	5.4927
School Tax	4.9960	School Tax	3.9035
Seniors Foundation	0.2110	Seniors Foundation	0.2003
2007 Comparative Tax Rate:	**35.3760**		**9.5965**

If Heisler remains a village

Actual 2007 residential property taxes levied on three properties in Heisler based 2007 residential tax rate:

	Assessment		Village Tax Rate				Heisler Property Taxes
Property 1	$23,780	x	35.3760 mills	x	0.001	=	$841
Property 2	$34,980	x	35.3760 mills	x	0.001	=	$1,237
Property 3	$109,770	x	35.3760 mills	x	0.001	=	$3,883

If Heisler dissolves

Estimated residential property taxes for the same three properties based on the 2007 county residential tax rate:

	Assessment		County Tax Rate				Flagstaff Property Taxes
Property 1	$23,780	x	9.5965 mills	x	0.001	=	$228
Property 2	$34,980	x	9.5965 mills	x	0.001	=	$336
Property 3	$109,770	x	9.5965 mills	x	0.001	=	$1,053

Other Known Costs

	Description	Estimated Annual Charge
Streetlights	Based on 2007 costs.	$138
Dust Control	Based on 2007 costs.	$45

Table 2

Heisler Non-residential Property Tax Comparison

2007 Municipal and School Taxes

Note: This table shows the changes that could be seen for three actual non-residential properties in Heisler if the village were to dissolve. Taxes may not be the only financial cost that would change. Utility rates could change, and additional fees may be considered for services that the Village of Heisler now provides that Flagstaff County does not provide in other areas of the county. These factors would have an effect on the cost of living in Heisler.

Village of Heisler		Flagstaff County	
Municipal	40.4840	Municipal	13.2410
School Tax	5.9230	School Tax	4.8884
Seniors Foundation	0.2110	Seniors Foundation	0.2003
2007 Comparative Tax Rate:	**46.6180**		**18.3297**

If Heisler remains a village

Actual 2007 non-residential property taxes levied on three properties in Heisler based on the 2007 non-residential tax rate:

	Assessment		Village Tax Rate				Heisler Property Taxes
Property 1	$22,020	x	46.6180 mills	x	0.001	=	$1,026
Property 2	$26,230	x	46.6180 mills	x	0.001	=	$1,223
Property 3	$73,260	x	46.6180 mills	x	0.001	=	$3,415

If Heisler dissolves

Estimated non-residential property taxes for the same three properties based on the 2007 county non-residential tax rate:

	Assessment		County Tax Rate				Flagstaff Property Taxes
Property 1	$22,020	x	18.3297 mills	x	0.001	=	$404
Property 2	$26,230	x	18.3297 mills	x	0.001	=	$480
Property 3	$73,250	x	18.3297 mills	x	0.001	=	$1,343

Other Known Costs

	Description	Estimated Annual Charge
Streetlights	Based on 2007 costs.	$138
Dust Control	Based on 2007 costs.	$45

Notes

Notes

How do I get more information?

A public meeting will be held on September 8, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. in the Heisler Community Hall to discuss the information in the dissolution study. Village residents will be mailed a notice of the public meeting and are encouraged to attend.

Officials from Alberta Municipal Affairs will present the dissolution study and will be available to answer your questions.

Will there be a vote on dissolution?

Yes. A non-binding vote on the question of dissolution will take place on September 15, 2008, **between 10:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.** at the Heisler Community Hall (119 Main Street).

The question on the ballot will be:

"Are you in favour of dissolving the Village of Heisler to become part of Flagstaff County?"

Alberta Municipal Affairs will administer the vote in accordance with the *Local Authorities Election Act*.

To be eligible to vote you must be:

- At least 18 years of age;
- A Canadian citizen;
- A resident of Alberta for the 6 months immediately preceding the vote; and
- A resident of the Village of Heisler on the day of the vote.

When registering to vote, residents are required to provide the **street address** or **legal description** of their home in Heisler. A mailing address is not sufficient.

What happens next?

The Minister of Municipal Affairs will then make a recommendation about whether or not the village should dissolve.

In making a recommendation, the Minister will consider this report, the views of the village and the county councils, the issues raised at the public meeting, and the results of the vote.

What will happen if the village dissolves?

If the Minister recommends dissolution to the Provincial Cabinet, and Cabinet agrees, the existing village council and administration would work with the county to wind up the village's affairs by the recommended dissolution date.

What will happen if the village does not dissolve?

The Village of Heisler will maintain its status as an incorporated municipality. The village's council will continue to be responsible for providing governance, levying taxes, and providing municipal services to the village.

For further information, contact:

Linda Reynolds or Coral Callioux of Alberta Municipal Affairs,
by dialing 310-0000 (toll free) and entering 780-427-2225.